

REMARKS

The office action of October 30, 2007, has been carefully considered.

It is noted that claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

Claims 1-4 are also rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101.

In view of the Examiner's rejections of the claims, applicant has amended claims 1, 2 and 4.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims now on file particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicant has amended the claims to address the instances of indefiniteness pointed out by the Examiner.

In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph is overcome and should be withdrawn.

HM-730

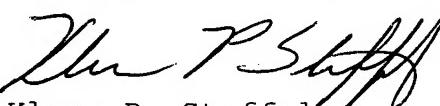
The claims have been amended so that they are directed to statutory subject matter. The claims provide a tangible result in that they increase process stability in the hot rolling of steel or nonferrous materials.

In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. 101 is overcome and should be withdrawn.

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

Any additional fees or charges required at this time in connection with this application may be charged to Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 11-1835.

Respectfully submitted,

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HM-730

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on February 29, 2008.

By: Klaus P. Stoffel
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